ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House has decided that Question Hour will continue. So, now Question No. 281.

Removal of the Dredgers grounded in Paradip Port

*281. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the dredgers Konark and M.O.T. 3 grounded in the proximity of the approach channel of Paradip Port have been removed;

(b) if so, when;

(c) whether investigations in the matter have been completed by the authorities;

(d) if so, what are the findings; and

(e) what action has been taken in the matter on the basis of the investigations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Wreck of MOT Dredger-III was removed by 24th February, 1988 and Wreck of Dredger Konark was removed by 30th March, 1988.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The main findings of the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Calcutta on grounding of Dredger Konark were:—

(i) The dredger in question was not fit in all respects with equipment, machinery, manpower in accordance with the statutory requirements.

(ii) Commander of the Dredger was not qualified and there was no valid safety equipment certificate or life saving equipment.

The main findings of the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Calcutta on the grounding of MOT Dredger-III are as under:

(i) The operation of the vessel in shallow stretches combined with the strong prevailing winds pushed the dredger into the area where it got grounded.

(ii) All the necessary precautions were not taken immediately after the vessel touched the bottom.

(iii) There was an error of judgement in handling of the stranded vessel.

(e) In the case of 'Konark' the Port Trust had already terminated the services of the Dredger Commander. The other observations were brought to the notice of the Chairman, Paradip Port Trust for future guidance.

In the case of MOT-III the report of the Metropolitan Magistrate received in February, 1989 by the Government has been sent to Dredging Corporation of India for its comments.

SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: Sir. . . (*Interruptions*).

MR. CHAIRMAN: Whatever you said, whatever he said, will not go on record. Why bother (*Interruptions*). During Question Hour what has been said otherwise by Mr. Madan Bhatia or by this side will not go on record. (*Interruptions*). In Question Hour, only questions are taken under the rules. I am bound by the rules. (*Interruptions*).

It is there in this red book.

SHRI M. S GURUPADASWAMY: It can be suspended by you.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: You give them time till this evening. You

adjourn the House. There is no other way. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Sir, my answer to the supplementary is that it was a technical fault of the pilot. An enquiry was ordered and action against those people who were involved was taken... (*Interruptions*) Sir, it was a totally technical fault and we took action whatever we could at this juncture... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have taken the view of the House. I am guided by the House. That is why I have said nothing else will go on record. (*Interruptions*). Question No. 282. Absent. Question No. 283.

*282. [*The questioner (Shri J. P. Javali was absent, for answer* vide *col.* 16 infra]

Indian Efforts to solve Afghan Problem

*283. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:†
SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that before the withdrawal of Russian forces ffrom Afghanistan the situation in that country had been very grave and it has deteriorated after the withdrawal of Russian forces; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take for the neutrality and independence of Afghanistan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) and (b) The situation in Afghanistan is not clear. Government are keeping in touch with the Afghan situation, withe a view to help promote a peaceful political settlement. In India's view, bloodshed in Afghanistan should stop, the Geneva accords honoured by all concerned and a political solution based on existing realities and ensuring the sovereignty, integrity, non-aligned status and independence of Afghanistan, arrived at by the Afghans themselves without external interference or intervention. In this context, India has been solidly behind the U.N. Secretary-General in his endeavours.

श्री रजनी रंजन साहू : सभापति महोदय, यह खुशी की बात है कि भारत यह मानता है कि अब अफगानिस्तान में खूनखराब बंद हुआ है और जेनेवा समझौते का पालन करना चाहिए। बावजूद इसके ऐसी आशंका बनी है कि पाकिस्तान में लोकतंत्र की वापसी के बावजूद पाकिस्तान की विदेश नीति में गतिशीलता नहीं आई है। मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूं कि अफगानिस्तान के भविष्य की सरकार की क्या स्थिति होगी क्योंकि भविष्य में बनने वाली सरकार (**व्यवधान**)

श्री के. नटवर सिंह : माननीय सदस्य ने जो सवाल किया है, उसके उत्तर में मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि जब तक जेनेवा समझौते का पालन नहीं होगा तब तक अफगानिस्तान में शांति होना बड़ा मुश्किल है। इसलिए ... (**व्यवधान**)

श्री रजनी रंजन साहू : सभापति महोदय, मेरा दूसरा पूरक प्रश्न यह है कि इस समय अफगानिस्तान में... (**व्यवधान**) पलायन जारी है। कई पश्चिमी देशों ने अफगानिस्तान में अपने दूतावास बंद कर दिये हैं और भारत पाकिस्तान के दूतावास काबुल में अभी तक वर्क कर रहे हैं... (**व्यवधान**) ऐसा सुनने में आया है कि भारत की... (**व्यवधान**) इमारत में... (**व्यवधान**) ताला लगा हुआ है। मंत्री महोदय, क्या इसके बारे में कुछ अपना रिएक्शन देंगे... (**व्यवधान**)

श्री के. नटवर सिंह:... (**व्यवधान**) भारत सरकार मौजूदा नजीबुल्लाह साहब की सरकार... (**व्यवधान**) को रिकग्नाईज करती है और (**व्यवधान**)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am only oath-bound to protect the Rules and the Constitution.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH:**

MR. CHAIRMAN: When the question was put, it has been negatived. I have no

†The Question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Rajni Ranjan Sahu.

**Not recorded.